

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	§	Filed: May 3, 2001
Bates et al.	§	
	§	Group Art Unit: 3621
Serial No.: 09/848,573	§	
	§	Examiner: Pierre E. Elisca
Confirmation No.: 6829	§	

For: Systems and Methods for Operating Vending Machines

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION</b>	
<small>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 571-273-8300 to the attention of Examiner Pierre E. Elisca, or electronically transmitted via EFS-Web, on the date shown below:</small>	
<small>February 12, 2008</small>	<small>/Gero G. McClellan/</small>
<small>Date</small>	<small>Gero G. McClellan</small>

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED DECEMBER 12, 2007**

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 12, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 12, 2008, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. This response is filed (or is deemed to have been filed) within two months of the date of the Final Office Action. While no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465/ROC920010064US1 for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.